

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

**JULIUS DEANE GRIFFIN,
a/k/a “West Camp,”
a/k/a “Julius Dean Griffin,”
a/k/a “Julius Deon Griffin,”
a/k/a “Hustla Griffin,”
a/k/a “Hustla,”**

Defendant.

Case No. 25-CR-00167-SEH

OPINION AND ORDER

Before the Court is the government’s unopposed motion in limine to determine Indian Country as a matter of law. [ECF No. 34]. For the reasons provided below, the motion is granted.

A federal grand jury charged Defendant Julius Griffin in a 26-count Indictment. [ECF No. 20]. Count Twenty-Four alleges Griffin committed an assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to do bodily harm in Indian Country. [*Id.* at 8]. The government anticipates eliciting testimony that Griffin committed the crime alleged in Count Twenty-Four at 2929 W. Easton Ct., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. [ECF No. 34 at 2].

The government seeks a pretrial determination, as a matter of law, that 2929 W. Easton Ct., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127 is within the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and therefore within Indian Country, as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1151(a). [*Id.* at 1]. The defendant does not object to the government's motion. [*Id.*].

“As a general matter, the trial court decides the jurisdictional status of a particular property or area and then leaves to the jury the factual determination of whether the alleged crime occurred at the site.” *United States v. Roberts*, 185 F.3d 1125, 1139 (10th Cir. 1999). Therefore, a trial court “makes the jurisdictional ruling a particular tract of land or geographic area is Indian Country, and then instructs the jury to determine whether the alleged offense occurred there.” *Id.*

Because the government is the party invoking the Court's jurisdiction, it bears the “burden of persuading this court by a preponderance of the evidence that the court has jurisdiction.” *United States v. Bustillos*, 31 F.3d 931, 933 (10th Cir. 1994). “Indian Country” includes “all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government.” 18 U.S.C. § 1151.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's reservation was created by federal law. “In a series of treaties, Congress not only “solemnly guarantied” the land but also “establish[ed] boundary lines which will secure a country and permanent

home to the whole Creek Nation of Indians.” *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, 591 U.S. 894, 899–900 (2020). The reservation’s initial boundaries were created in 1833. *See Treaty with the Creeks*, Art. II, Feb. 14, 1833, 7 Stat. 418. Following the American Civil War, the size of the reservation was reduced, and it took on the familiar shape it retains to the present day. *Treaty Between the United States and the Creek Nation of Indians*, Art. III, June 14, 1866, 14 Stat. 786.

The government submits for the Court’s review a link to a map of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation showing that 2929 W. Easton Ct., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127 is located within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Reservation boundaries. [See ECF No. 34 at 2–3 (directing the Court to <https://mcngis.com/mcn-boundary/>)]. The Court finds that the government has carried its burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the location of the charged events is within Indian country. A jury, however, must determine whether the alleged crime occurred at this location.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the government’s motion in limine to determine Indian Country as a matter of law [ECF No. 37] is GRANTED.

DATED this 28th day of May, 2025.



Sara E. Hill
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE